

**REPORT TO THE
TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
STATE OF HAWAII**

2004

**ON THE STATUS OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND
AS ESTABLISHED BY ACT 169, SLH, 1994**

**PREPARED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF HAWAII
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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION FUND ACTIVITIES DURING FY 2003

The Environmental Health Education Fund, formerly known as “Environmental Health Program Enhancement and Education Fund,” supports the training of Department of Health staff and food establishment personnel; as well as provides educational outreach to the general public regarding food safety. This report provides a broad overview of the functional role of the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) and how its activities relate to the Environmental Health Education Fund to demonstrate the significance of this fund to public health. This report is submitted under Section 321-27(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which states that the Department “shall submit a report to the Legislature concerning the status of the Environmental Health Education Fund, including, but not limited to the amount of monies taken in and expended from the fund, and the sources of receipts and uses of expenditures...”

The mission of the EHSD branches is to optimize public health and environmental practices through education, prevention, assessment and compliance. In performing these functions, the programs within EHSD must be able to prevent or reduce the occurrence of any environmentally-related communicable diseases, illnesses, or injury from contaminated food products, defective medical devices or vectors.

The programs in EHSD are in the following branches: Sanitation; Food and Drug; Vector Control; and Noise, Radiation and Indoor Air Quality. The Division staff are professionals with capabilities for assessing food contamination and adulteration; inspecting and permitting food establishments; evaluating x-ray devices and other sources of radiation; measuring and testing stationary noise standards; assessing charges of unsanitary conditions; responding to and resolving nuisance complaints relating to environmentally-related conditions; and abating vectors in public areas.

Delays in filling vacant positions continue to take their toll on much of the Division’s already reduced resources. As this trend continues, staff training remains a significant focus for maximizing efficiency and effectiveness with limited staffing in order to satisfy performance of program objectives. The Environmental Health Education Fund allows the Division the appropriate mechanism to provide on-going education for updating and cross-training staff with the technological and organizational changes.

The current practice of utilization of an educational approach to inform the public; and motivate operators toward compliance with applicable standards and regulations has remained unchanged. In this regard, it is recognized that compliance with rules and regulations, not enforcement per se, is the primary objective of the EHSD programs. The fund is thus a vital component in this long-range plan, which includes education for the industries that the Division regulates. The premise is that both education and public outreach efforts enhance compliance. Wide dissemination of information concerning the technical and scientific basis for the program’s regulatory requirements should contribute to a clearer understanding of the necessity for compliance. Education is always continuous, especially in areas where scientific findings

occur. An informed public with a clear understanding of the public health rationale of program functions and corresponding regulatory requirements is a fundamental goal in assuring that potential environmental health problems are identified and resolved before actual illness, injury or fatality occurs.

STATUS OF THE EHEF

As authorized in Section 321-27(a), HRS, the Department can collect and deposit fees for permits, licenses, inspections, various certificates, variances and investigations and reviews into the fund pursuant to Sections 321-11.5(a)(c) and 321-15, HRS.

Revenues collected for fiscal year 2003, and deposited into the fund totaled \$596,929.49. The primary sources of funds were collected statewide from permit fees for food establishments, plan reviews, temporary food applications, and license fees for tattoo artists, registered sanitarians, embalmers, laboratory technologists and laboratory directors.

Expenditures of \$190,557.71 are for personnel costs of two Registered Sanitarian IV's in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program (located on the Big Island and Oahu, respectively), and one Data Processing Systems Analyst IV. The two Registered Sanitarians in the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provide educational and training opportunities for food establishments statewide, which is consistent with Section 321-402, HRS. The Data Processing Systems Analyst IV provides the Division with a technical person for managing the Division's data system and assisting the programs on computer matters. A Data Processing Systems Analyst III position is established to provide additional support in computer systems management. An additional Registered Sanitarian IV position is also created to coordinate and streamline building plan reviews required by environmental health programs.

For fiscal year 2003, the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program provided the following:

FOOD SAFETY CONSULTATION & EDUCATION PROGRAM

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Food Certification Workshops Given:	25
Student Attendance:	432
Students Certified:	410
Food Safety Classes Given:	104
Student Attendance:	1,985

The EHEF also enables the programs and personnel of the Environmental Health Services Division the means of providing improved public health services. In addition to on-going workshops conducted by the Food Safety Consultation and Education Program, the following are highlights of fiscal year 2003:

1. Two Registered Sanitarians whose responsibilities are key to regulating the milk industry in Hawaii attended the Milk Protection Course, Arlington, TX, on August 3-10, 2002.
2. Sanitation Program Manager attended the Conference on Food Safety Education in Orlando, FL, on September 15-21, 2002.
3. The two Registered Sanitarians regulating the milk industry attended the Pacific Region Milk Certification course in Reno, NV, on November 17-22, 2002.
4. A Registered Sanitarian regulating the milk industry attended the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments, Seattle, WA, on April 28-May 1, 2003.
5. The Food and Drug Inspector who is the program's prescriptions drugs specialist attended the 99th National Association of Board of Pharmacy Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, on May 3-7, 2003.
6. A Registered Sanitarian in the Food Consultation and Education Program, the Division Administrator, and two District Environmental Health Program Chiefs participated in the National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference in Reno, NV, on June 8-11, 2003.
7. Food and Drug Program Manager attended the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Annual Education Conference, Chicago, Ill, on June 14-18, 2003. The AFDO International Workshop is dedicated to discussions on the ever-changing global trade environment with its myriad of political and technological problems.
8. Various workshops, conducted in Honolulu, were provided for Food & Drug and Sanitation Staff in the area of food safety. These included the FDA Ready to Eat Seafood Processors Workshop, FDA Food Allergens, FDA Seafood HACCP Standardization Training, Temporary Food Establishments & Public Swimming Pool Workshop, the Hawaii Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference, and various administrative training sessions.
9. Various meetings for Managers and staff of Sanitation, Food & Drug and Vector Control programs.
10. Investments in expanding the Division's computer infrastructure upgrades continued.

Expenditures including personnel costs and encumbrances for fiscal year 2003 totalled 323,332.04 (source document FAMIS MBP 430). Additionally, \$426,940.89 was transferred to the general fund in excess of \$300,000 in the EHEF as of June 30, 2003 as required under Section 321-27(c), HRS.

In summary, it would not have been possible to fund many of these program activities, personnel enhancement opportunities and technology infrastructure advancements without the Environmental Health Education Fund. Proposed expenditures for FY 2004 will continue the vision for prudent utilization of this special fund to ensure protection of public health needs at a time when much of government service is restructuring and re-inventing itself from its former heavy enforcement orientation to partnership building.